# Wavy Colors - Thread Painted Box Top

By Terry White

I love little boxes. Quite often I can find them at flea markets and thrift stores. I found this 5inch box for $1 at a thrift store…it even has a mirror in it. I like to decorate my plain boxes with leftovers from stitching projects, UFO's and stitch samples. So, this exercise in thread painting was glued to the top of a little box. There will be no problem finding a use for this box, if a sister or daughter doesn't claim it first!

## Supplies

### Machine & Accessories

- BERNINA 730 or other BERNINA Sewing Machine
- Freehand Embroidery Foot #24

### Fabric & Notions

- Little box…if not a recycled treasure, then the craft stores have them
- 12 inch square of linen. (**Tip**: use colored linen, and then you don't have to completely cover the fabric.)
- 12 inch square of medium weight non-woven stabilizer
- 9 inch Morgan No-Slip hoop
- Felt – to fit the back of finished stitching
- Wonder-Under- to fit the back of finished stitching
- Craft glue (Gem-Tac)
- Green acrylic craft paint for the lower half of the box
- Star Cotton Threads

(*Specifically…the multi-colors which Terry designed for Star*)…..any and all the threads you have can be used

- 60 weight bobbin thread
- Size 90/14 Machine Embroidery Needle (Schmetz)
- *Terry created a little yarn "Bauble" to decorate and serve as a handle to open the box*

## Machine Set Up

- The following instructions for tension settings work for me on my BERNINA 730. You may start with these settings and then adjust your machine for your way of working.
- Upper thread tensions set to 0 and lengthen the stitch length to maximum setting (The reason for this is that the BERNINA machines have such a beautiful tight stitch; we have to fool it into loosening up by making it think that we are basting. The basting setting allows more freedom of thread flow.)
- Attached Freehand Embroidery Foot #24 and insert a size 90/14 machine embroidery needle.

***Terry White***, award-winning fiber artist, author and teacher, is passionate about thread painting and needle arts of all kinds. Her repertoire also includes appliqué, patchwork, quilting, and embellishing with decorative threads. She teaches needle arts throughout the country and has made appearances on Quilting Arts TV and QNN.

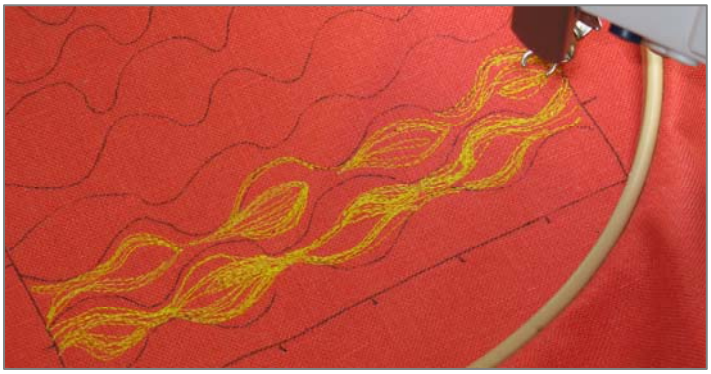
Visit www.threadpaint.com to preview Terry's gallery of work and to learn more about her classes, books, videos and patterns. You can also contact her at rscwhite@roadrunner.com.

## Steps

- Feel free to make the design any size to fit your project.
- Trace design onto the linen with an acid free archival quality pen.

- Place the linen, layered with the stabilizer, in the hoop (small inner ring on top, large outer ring on the bottom).

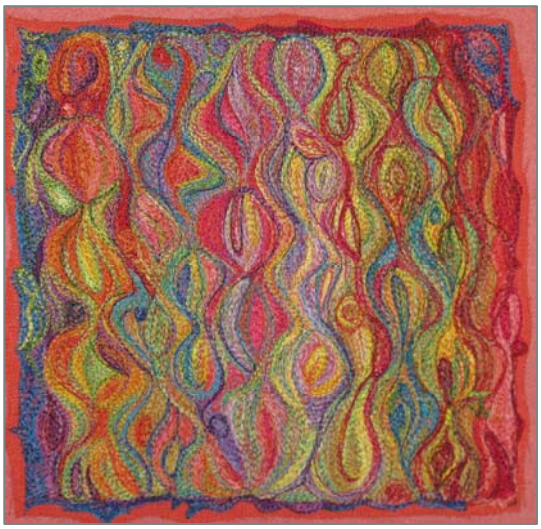
- Put the hoop under the needle and begin to stitch with an even speed and smooth movements. The design is a guide- please don't try to stitch on the lines or in the lines!

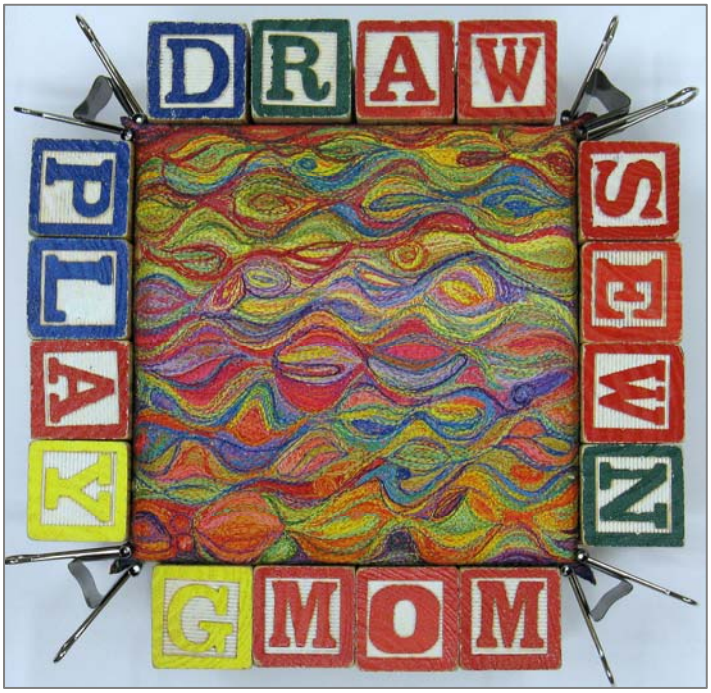


- I began with a warm yellow thread. Photos show how I am filling in the area following the contours of the wave shapes.

- Next, I stitch with the teal color and stitch next to the yellow and inside of some of the yellow areas. The next color is green (which, of course, is the blend of blue and yellow) so, this thread blends the first two.

- You will notice that I didn't stitch all the yellow first, then all the blue, etc. I will develop each wave section as I go, introducing a new color and different stitching ideas. This keeps the work fresh and interesting. It gives me a chance to experiment with new color and stitch ideas.
- Sometimes, I'll go back into an area later to add some high contrast or just more colors.
- After stitching, use the fusible web to adhere the felt to the back of your stitching. Then, with a sharp pair of scissors (Havel's are my favorite!) trim the design.



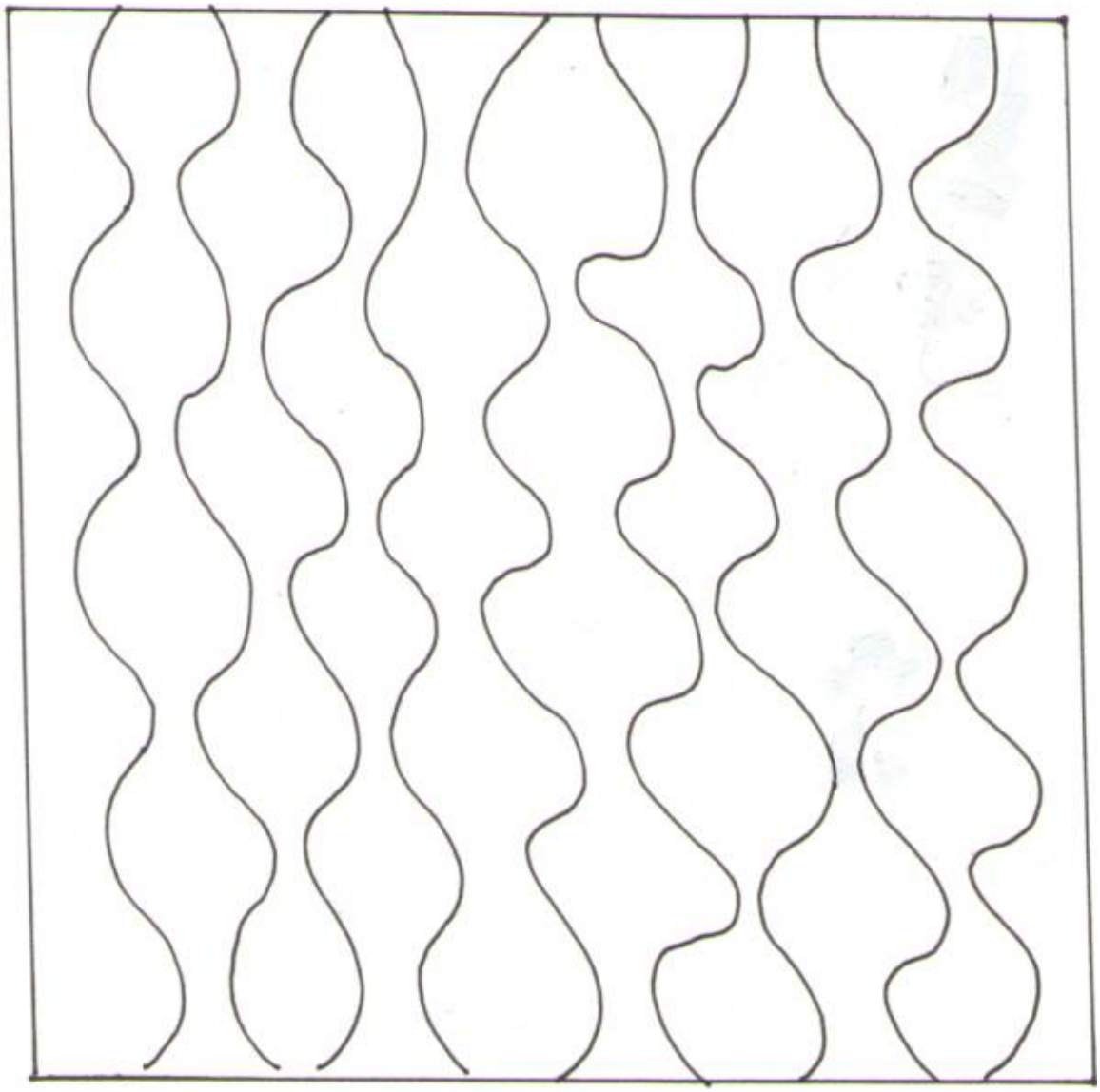



- The design is 6 inches square. The top of my box is 5 inches square. I stitched the full 6 inches and then folded the edges down over the sides of the box top. I used a good glue and clamped the points down with clips and the edges with wooden blocks until dry.

You can find additional projects and inspiration in Terry White's two books, published by AQS: *Thread Painting Made Easy* and *All Beaded Up by Machine*. She is smack dab in the middle of her third book, covering embellishments by machine, which is also an AQS publication.

***Visit* www.berninausa.com**

***Here is the little pastel study that was the inspiration for this project.***



*Here is the drawing to trace onto your fabric.*